

# PAVE THE WAY TO A SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD



## A GUIDE TO TALL GRASS AND WEEDS



\*Example shows a tall grass and weed violation

## THE REASONS

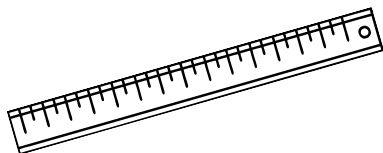
Shorter vegetation can improve aesthetics, prevent harbor of rodents and insects, and decrease fire hazards within the City of Rochester. As a homeowner it is important to keep your streets, sidewalks, and other public areas accessible from overgrown vegetation.

## EXEMPTIONS

Under **Chapter 8-5: Tall Grass and Weeds:**

\*please note that the following are only applicable for areas without noxious weeds

- designated wetlands
- within 50 feet of stormwater ponds, creeks, rivers, or stream corridors
- agriculturally-zoned or pastured land
- temporary erosion control grasses
- maintained natural landscape with proper natural landscape permit
- public parks or private property designated by City Council
- altered slopes greater than 2:1
- Ornamental grasses



## THE RULES

### Property Owner Responsibility

Property owners are responsible for caring and maintaining vegetation on private property and the adjoining right of way. Mow vegetation regularly to keep vegetation under 12 inches. It is important to note the land between the street and sidewalk (boulevard) is public property, but is still under the responsibility of the abutting property owner to mow.

### In violation if grass and weeds are:

- over 12 inches in height
- area of least 144 square feet
- located within 200 feet of developed or platted parcel/property
- and/or noxious weeds present

Although the City owns the public right of way which includes all streets, sidewalks, and alleys; the property owner is still responsible for maintaining vegetation and mowing grass.

Dial 328-2512 to  
report a tall grass  
and weed violation



# THE INSPECTION PROCESS

Tall Grass and Noxious Weed Complaint Filed  
with Forestry

Inspector **does not confirm** presence of Noxious Weeds on MDA Eradicate List or tall grass and herbaceous vegetation measuring over 12 inches in height.

Inspector **confirms** presence of Noxious Weeds on MDA Eradicate List or tall grass and herbaceous vegetation measuring over 12 inches in height.

**No violation** of COR 8-5 found and no corrective action taken. There will be no charges to property owner.

**Violation** of COR 8-5 is found. Administrative fine is issued and contractor is notified to remove tall grass and/or noxious weeds from property within 48 hours.



It is important to note that if violation is not fixed before contractor services, they will be fined two things: administration fine **and** contractor services fines  
\*city clerk has the right to add administrative charge of \$25

If property owner does not abate violation prior to contractor services, the **administrative fine** + **contractor services** will be issued.\*

If property owner abates violation prior to contractor services, **only the administrative fine** will be issued.\*



## THE ALTERNATIVE: NATURAL LANDSCAPE PERMIT

By applying for our **free** city Natural Landscape Permit, you can grow vegetation taller than 12 inches and have the freedom to landscape!

### What you need to apply:

- name and address
- legal description of property
- site plan
- description of vegetation types and succession
- management and maintenance plan:
  - estimate of transition period
  - removal of non-native or invasive species
  - replanting by transplant or seed
  - maintenance of non-woody/ grasses in buffer
  - maintenance of all vegetation 18 inches from sidewalk, alley, street, or bikeway.

All applications must be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department for approval.



## QUESTIONS?

Visit: [www.rochestermn.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/forestry](http://www.rochestermn.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/forestry) to learn more about planting, natural landscape, and boulevard tree work permits.

### Report an Issue:

Dial 328-2512 to report concerns about trees, tall grass and weeds taller than 12 inches, and other obstructive vegetation.

### More Questions?

Visit our website!

Learn more about volunteering opportunities, tree care, invasives, tree ID, code enforcement, Emerald Ash Borer, and more.

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